

Route 460 Location Study

A NEWSLETTER TO INFORM, EDUCATE AND INVOLVE THE PUBLIC

Welcome to the third edition of the Route 460 Location Study Newsletter.

This edition is designed to prepare you for the July 2005 public hearings. Past newsletter editions are posted on the study's Web site for your review.

Inside, you will find information about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process, including the purpose and need of the study, an overview of the alternatives under consideration and information about the location public hearings scheduled for July 19 & 21, 2005.

Your involvement in the study process is important to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). We encourage you to visit our Web site to read more about the study: <http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/460.asp>

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the Route 460 Location Study. We hope to see you at the public hearings.



Draft Environmental Impact Statement is Ready for Public Review

In an effort to address transportation needs in the study area, VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have developed a range of alternatives described in a report known as a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). These alternatives consist of three possible roadway locations or Candidate Build Alternatives (CBA), a No-Build Alternative, and a Transportation System Management (TSM) Alternative. Environmental impacts associated with the alternatives are discussed in the DEIS.

Where to Read the DEIS

A complete copy of the DEIS has been placed on reserve for your review at regional libraries and VDOT offices and also is available on the study Web site: www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/460.asp

VDOT Offices

Please call to make arrangements for viewing at the following locations:

Hampton Roads District Office
1700 N. Main St., Suffolk
Tel: (757) 925-2500

Franklin Office
904 Pretlow St., Franklin
Tel: (757) 562-3194

Waverly Office
7051 General Mahone Hwy., Waverly
Tel: (804) 524-8427

Petersburg Office
4608 Boynton Plank Rd., Petersburg
Tel: (804) 863-4004

Richmond District Office
2430 Pine Forest Dr., Colonial Heights
Tel: (804) 524-6000

Public Libraries

Carrollton Public Library
14362 New Towne Haven Ln., Carrollton

Carson Depot Library
16101 Halligan Park Rd., Carson

Claremont Public Library
91 Mancha Ave., Claremont
Walter Cecil Rawls Library
22511 Main St., Courtland

Disputanta Library
10010 County Dr., Disputanta

Ruth Camp Campbell Memorial Library
280 N. College Dr., Franklin

Maude Langhorne Nelson Library
245 E. Cawson St., Hopewell
Isle of Wight/Smithfield Library
255 James St., Smithfield

Prince George Library
6402 Courthouse Rd., Prince George

Morgan Memorial Library
443 W. Washington St., Suffolk

Surry Library
11640 Rolfe Hwy., Surry

Troxler Memorial Library
100 Wilson Ave., Wakefield

Agnes Taylor Gray Library
125 Bank St., Waverly

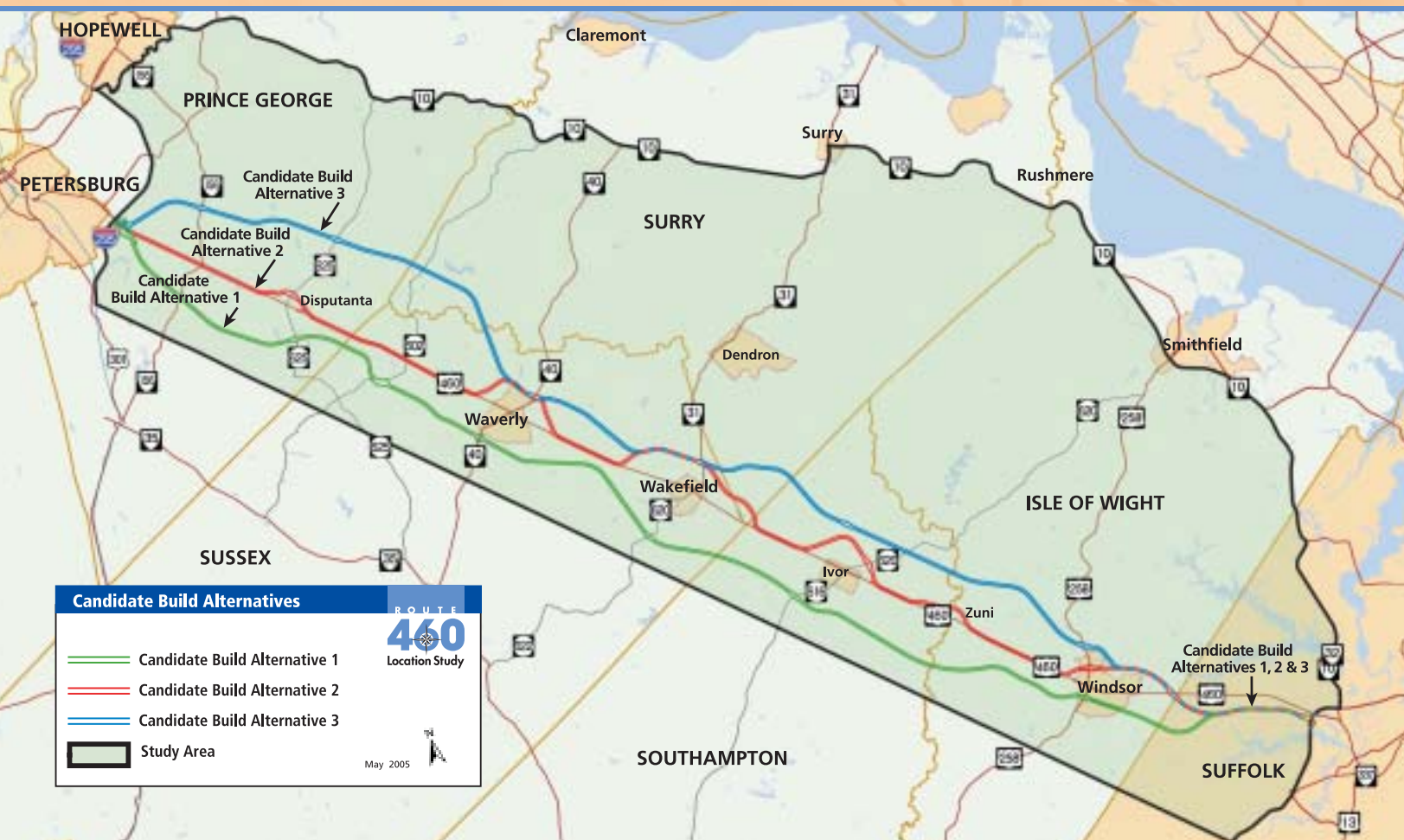
Windsor Public Library
18 Duke St., Windsor

Public Hearings Schedule

Two identical location public hearings will be held at two schools in the study area to provide easy accessibility for all interested citizens. You are invited to attend anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to speak to the study team and submit comments.

Tuesday, July 19, 2005
Windsor High School
Windsor High School
24 Church Street
Windsor

Thursday, July 21, 2005
J.E.J. Moore Middle School
11455 Prince George Drive
Disputanta



Alternatives Presented for Comment in the DEIS

The identification and evaluation of the alternatives was an important step of the study. Alternatives that met the study's purpose and need were given consideration. After collecting and analyzing detailed information, the range of alternatives were narrowed to five: three Candidate Build Alternatives (CBA), a Transportation System Management option and a No-Build Alternative.

The following alternatives will be presented at the public hearings and are described in greater detail in the DEIS. Your comments on these alternatives are very important to the study.

➤ **Candidate Build Alternative 1** follows an alignment that is south of existing Route 460. It is a four-lane (2 lanes per direction) divided highway. Access to the towns and major secondary roads would be provided at nine interchange locations: Route 58 Bypass in Suffolk; Route 258 in Windsor; Route 616 south of Ivor; Route 620 south of Wakefield; Route 40 south of Waverly; Route 602 west of Waverly; Route 625 south of Disputanta; Route 156 in Prince George County and at Interstate 295.

A study was conducted in conjunction with the Location Study to evaluate issues relating to implementing tolls on CBAs 1 and 3. Results of the feasibility study will be presented at the public hearings.

➤ **Candidate Build Alternative 2** largely follows the alignment of existing Route 460, but includes northern bypasses around Windsor, Zuni, Ivor, Wakefield, Waverly, and Disputanta. Also, the alternative through Suffolk is located on new alignment (the same new alignment as CBAs 1 & 3). Along each bypass there are access points to existing Route 460 and interchanges with the secondary roads that lead to the towns: Route 258 in Windsor, Route 620 northeast of Ivor, Route 31

north of Wakefield, Route 40 north of Waverly, and Route 625 north of Disputanta. CBA 2 would be a four-lane highway; it is not proposed as a limited access facility.

➤ **Candidate Build Alternative 3** shares the same alignment as CBAs 1 and 2 in Suffolk. However, west of Suffolk the roadway is located entirely on the north side of existing Route 460. Nine interchanges would provide access to the four-lane divided highway: at Route 58 Bypass in Suffolk, existing Route 460 near the Suffolk/Isle of Wight County border, Route 258 in Windsor, Route 620 northeast of Ivor, Route 31 north of Wakefield, Route 40 north of Waverly, and Route 625 north of Disputanta, Route 156 in Prince George County, and Interstate 295.

➤ **The Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative** (not depicted on the map) involves basic upgrades to the current Route 460. Such upgrades would include adding turn lanes at critical intersections, adding advance warning lights, and installing rumble strips. Adding additional travel lanes, grade-separated interchanges, or drainage systems are not included in this alternative.

➤ **The No-Build Alternative** only includes the improvements already planned and funded for Route 460. Planned improvements include:

- Suffolk – Arterial signal system – Kings Fork Road to west corporate limits
- Sussex – Dual left turn lanes on VA 604
- Prince George – Left turn lane signal modification on Prince George Drive (VA 156)
- Prince George – Left turn lane signal modification on Quaker Road (VA 629)

Your Participation is Important

The purpose of the public hearing is to present findings of the Route 460 Location Study and to obtain input from the community. We invite you to review the project information and to share your views at the public hearing where you will have an opportunity for one-on-one discussions with study team members. After reviewing exhibits and talking with the study team, you may submit written comments or provide oral comments which will be transcribed verbatim. Comments received during the public comment period will be summarized and presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for their consideration. You do not need to attend the public hearing to make a comment.

How to Comment on the Study

Submit Written or Oral Comments

You may submit written comments at the meetings, by mail or online. All written comments must be received by July 31, 2005 in order to be included as part of the public hearing transcript.

Public Hearing – Look for a comment table in the meeting area where you can sit and complete a comment form. Drop your comment form in the comment box before leaving. You also may provide oral comments which will be transcribed verbatim for the study's record.

Online – Visit the study Web site at www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/460.asp for an online comment form.

Mail – Use the postage paid comment form provided at the public hearing. Completed forms should be mailed to Mr. Dennis W. Heuer, P.E., Hampton Roads District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1700 North Main Street, Suffolk, VA 23432-4322 or Mr. Thomas A. Hawthorne, P.E., Richmond District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 3402, Colonial Heights, VA 23834-9002.

What's Next?

- Public hearings to gather citizen input will be held July 19 and 21, 2005. Comments for the public hearing record must be received by July 31, 2005.
- Input from the public hearings and local government and the results of the study will be submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for their consideration.
- The CTB reviews public and agency comments in addition to other available information and selects a preferred alternative.
- A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is prepared to document the action of the CTB, respond to comments on the DEIS and discuss measures to mitigate impacts.
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) signs the FEIS and issues a Record of Decision.

Study Schedule

Scoping Process	Spring – Summer 2003
Purpose and Need	Spring – Fall 2003
Alternatives Development	Summer 2003 – Summer 2004
Draft EIS Document	Winter 2004 – Summer 2005
CTB Meeting	Fall 2005
Final EIS Document	Summer 2005 – Winter 2005/2006
Record of Decision	Winter 2005/2006

Route 460 Improvements: Purpose and Need

Transportation needs identified as part of the study include the following:

1. Address roadway deficiencies:

Route 460 has design and operational deficiencies that cause safety and mobility problems.

2. Improve safety: Crash rates for Route 460 are higher than other similar roadways in Virginia.

3. Accommodate increasing freight shipments: Truck usage percentages for Route 460 are significantly higher than national averages for similar roads. Truck traffic is forecasted to grow due to expansions at the Port of Virginia.

4. Reduce travel delay: Future traffic volumes will result in increased travel delays on Route 460 due to capacity limitations at traffic signals and the lack of access control.

5. Provide adequate hurricane evacuation capability: Route 460 is a designated hurricane evacuation route for Hampton Roads communities.

6. Assure strategic military importance: Route 460 is part of a strategic highway network designated by the Department of Defense and the Federal Highway Administration.

7. Meet legislative mandate: Federal legislation, as well as the Virginia Transportation Act of 2000, identified the roadway as a high priority corridor for improvement.

8. Consistency with local economic development plans: Localities within the Route 460 study area have identified the need for transportation improvements to meet their economic development objectives.

VDOT offers a Relocation Assistance Program in accordance with the *Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970* (Public Law 91-646), as amended in 1987.

ROUTE 460

Location Study

Mr. James O. Clarke, AICP
Environmental Division
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

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Permit #508
Norfolk, VA

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Public Hearings Scheduled

4 p.m. - 7 p.m., both locations

Windsor – Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Windsor High School
24 Church Street, Windsor

Disputanta – Thursday, July 21, 2005

J.E.J. Moore Middle School
11455 Prince George Drive, Disputanta

Special Assistance

If you require assistance to participate in these meetings such as a sign language interpreter, call toll free (800) 663-4188 or contact the VDOT Petersburg Office at (804) 863-4000 or the VDOT Hampton Roads District Office at (757) 925-2500; or TDD 711.

Both hearing locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

ROUTE 460

Location Study

Stay informed

- > Visit our study Web site
- > Review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- > Share your comments with the study team

Study Contact Information

Study Manager: Mr. James O. Clarke, AICP
Environmental Division
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Questions about the Route 460 Location Study?

Call Mr. James O. Clarke, study manager:
1-804-371-6845

E-mail the team:
460locationstudy@vdot.virginia.gov

Visit the Study Web site:
www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/460.asp

Visit the VDOT Web site:
www.vdot.virginia.gov